

1 **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

2 1. An apparatus for providing an alarm when a wheelchair occupant leaves a seat
3 of the wheelchair, comprising:

4 a monitor to be positioned beneath the seat when the monitor is secured to the
5 wheelchair via opposing edges of the monitor;

6 a top of the monitor for contacting an underside of the seat when the monitor is
7 secured to the wheelchair; and

8 an internal spring for pushing the top of the monitor apart from a bottom of the
9 monitor, wherein a spring force of the internal spring is overcome by the occupant
10 occupying the seat and the alarm is provided when the occupant leaves the seat.

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12 2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

13 an internal circuit having a switch held open by the spring force when the
14 occupant is seated and that provides a signal when the switch closes when the occupant
15 rises from the seat;

16 a speaker for outputting the alarm upon receipt of the signal from the internal
17 circuit;

18 a local on/off switch to turn the monitor on/off; and

19 an input jack for connecting a remote switch.

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21 3. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

22 adjustable attachment means for attaching the remote switch to the wheelchair, to
23 allow the remote switch to be moved out of the occupant's reach.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the alarm can be silenced by operation of the
2 remote switch, and a subsequent occupying of the wheelchair will reset the monitor,
3 thereby allowing the alarm to again sound after the occupant leaves the chair, without
4 having to arm the alarm again.

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6 5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the remote switch is one of a rocker type
7 switch, a plunger type switch, a toggle switch or a flip switch.

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9 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the top of the monitor slightly pushes
10 against the underside of the seat when the monitor is secured to the wheelchair.

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12 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the monitor is secured to the wheelchair via
13 straps threaded through respective openings at opposing edges of the monitor, and the
14 straps are adjustable in length to allow the monitor to be attached to different size
15 wheelchairs.

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17 8. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the internal circuit delays output of the
18 signal by a preset or selectable dead-band to reduce nuisance alarms caused by a shift in
19 weight by the occupant.

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21 9. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the internal circuit further comprises:
22 a unique voice alarm; and

1 a recording indicator provided by an Light Emitting Diode (LED) for informing
2 when the unique voice alarm is being recorded.

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4 10. An apparatus for providing an alarm when a wheelchair occupant leaves a
5 seat of the wheelchair, comprising:

6 a monitor to be positioned within the seat when the monitor is secured to the
7 wheelchair via opposing edges of the monitor;

8 a top of the monitor for contacting an underside of the seat when the monitor is
9 secured to the wheelchair; and

10 an internal spring for pushing the top of the monitor apart from a bottom of the
11 monitor, wherein a spring force of the internal spring is overcome by the occupant
12 occupying the seat and the alarm is provided when the occupant leaves the seat.

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14 11. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:

15 an internal circuit having a switch held open by the spring force when the
16 occupant is seated and that provides a signal when the switch closes when the occupant
17 rises from the seat;

18 a speaker for outputting the alarm upon receipt of the signal from the internal
19 circuit;

20 a local on/off switch to turn the monitor on/off; and

21 an input jack for connecting a remote switch that is attachable to multiple
22 locations on the wheelchair, to allow the remote switch to be moved out of the occupant's
23 reach.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the alarm can be silenced by operation of
2 the remote switch, and a subsequent occupying of the wheelchair will reset the monitor,
3 thereby allowing the alarm to again sound after the occupant leaves the chair, without
4 having to arm the alarm again.
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6 13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the remote switch is one of a rocker type
7 switch, a plunger type switch, a toggle switch or a flip switch.
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9 14. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the monitor is secured to the wheelchair
10 via straps threaded through respective openings at opposing edges of the monitor, and the
11 straps are adjustable in length to allow the monitor to be attached to different size
12 wheelchairs.
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14 15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the internal circuit delays output of the
15 signal by a preset or selectable dead-band to reduce nuisance alarms caused by a shift in
16 weight by the occupant.
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18 16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the internal circuit further comprises:
19 a unique voice alarm; and
20 a recording indicator provided by an Light Emitting Diode (LED) for informing
21 when the unique voice alarm is being recorded.
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1 17. An alarm for use with an invalid chair comprising:

2 a monitor to be positioned beneath or within a seat of the invalid chair when the
3 monitor is secured to a frame of the invalid chair via opposing edges of the monitor;

4 a top of the monitor for contacting the seat when the monitor is secured to the
5 frame of the chair; and

6 an internal spring for pushing the top of the monitor apart from a bottom of the
7 monitor, wherein a spring force of the internal spring is overcome by the occupant
8 occupying the seat and the alarm is provided when the occupant leaves the seat.

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10 18. The alarm of claim 17, further comprising:

11 an internal circuit having a switch held open by the spring force when the
12 occupant is seated and that provides a signal when the switch closes when the occupant
13 rises from the seat;

14 a speaker for outputting the alarm upon receipt of the signal from the internal
15 circuit;

16 a local on/off switch to turn the monitor on/off;

17 an input jack for connecting a remote switch attachable to multiple locations on
18 the chair, to allow the remote switch to be moved out of the occupant's reach;

19 a unique voice alarm; and

20 a recording indicator provided by an Light Emitting Diode (LED) for informing
21 when the unique voice alarm is being recorded.

1 19. The alarm of claim 18, wherein the alarm can be silenced by operation of the
2 remote switch, and a subsequent occupying of the chair will reset the monitor, thereby
3 allowing the alarm to again sound after the occupant leaves the chair, without having to
4 arm the alarm again.

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6 19. The alarm of claim 18, wherein the remote switch is one of a rocker type
7 switch, a plunger type switch, a toggle switch or a flip switch.

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9 20. The alarm of claim 18, wherein the monitor is secured via straps threaded
10 through respective openings at opposing edges of the monitor, and the straps are
11 adjustable in length to allow the monitor to be attached to different size chairs.